

FOURTH GRADE

THIRD QUARTER NEWS

ISSUE 3 FEBRUARY 2012

WELCOME TO THE THIRD QUARTER!

Dear Parents,

The third quarter has arrived, and it is going to prove to be a very busy one! Each child will be working on a research project of a famous Virginian of his/her choosing. The preparations for the Science Fair will also begin this quarter. Information on both of these projects will be coming home in the near future!

We have a lot of exciting lessons and activities planned for your children on a daily basis. Please look below for a description of student learning that will take place for all the core subject areas this quarter. As always feel free to call or e-mail your child's teacher if you have any questions.

The Fourth Grade Team



SOCIAL STUDIES—VIRGINIA HISTORY

Social Studies continues to be a high interest topic in all of the fourth grade classes. This quarter we are continuing our study of Virginia History. The time period that we will be focusing on is from the Revolutionary War through the Reconstruction Period following

the Civil War. Highlighted topics are The Revolutionary War, Building our New Nation, The Civil War, and Reconstruction.

We are studying the impact of the above-mentioned events on our culture, economy, and gov-

ernment, along with notable Virginia citizens who made an impact on society during these time periods.

Please continue to review the study cards with your child that are sent home during each unit of study.

DATES TO REMEMBER

- February 23— Gunston Hall Field Trip
- April 13— Richmond Field Trip
- April 19— Science Fair



MATH



This quarter we will focus on learning objectives that center around the addition and subtraction of decimals and fractions, measurement, and geometry.

Please review your child's homework with him/her each evening. Homework is meant to review what has been taught in class that day.

Please continue to practice the multiplication table with your child. Much of what we teach in math utilizes multiplication facts!!!

For more practice with math concepts visit this online web site:

<http://www.aaamath.com>

SCIENCE/HEALTH



The title of our next science unit is "*Science.... Just Do It!*". It consists of two mini-units. It was designed to give students more experience with experimental design through investigations with force and motion and plants.

In the mini-unit *Force and Motion*, students will learn about kinetic and

potential energy and the laws of motion. Students will conduct experiments measuring the speed of moving objects and testing friction.

In the mini-unit *Investigating Plants*, students will learn about the parts of plants and investigate the process of photosynthesis. Students will also

learn about the parts of the flower and seeds. They will conduct an experiment to determine the effect of sunlight on plants. Finally, they will learn about pollination, germination, and seed dispersal.



LANGUAGE ARTS



The area of reading is a huge focus in fourth grade. Our students are learning about and practicing various comprehension strategies both in whole group, small group, and during independent lessons. The reading strategies we are focusing on this quarter include making inferences

and summarizing.

Reading spans all curriculum areas which enables these strategies to be a focus throughout the entire day.

The students are going to be working on a research project in writing beginning in February.

Their projects are focused on Famous Virginians of student choosing. The students will be guided step by step through the research process. The use of technology will also be highlighted in this project, which will be completed both in school and at home.